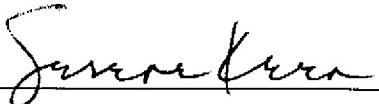


Response Under 37 CFR § 1.116
Expedited Procedure—Examining Group 2161
PATENT

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via electronic submission on the date shown below.

By: 

Date: 1/21/09

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No.	:	10/728,389	Confirmation No. 9231
Applicant	:	Kevin Smith et al.	
Filed	:	December 5, 2003	
Title	:	Tissue Retractor and Method for Using the Retractor	
TC/Art Unit	:	3773	
Examiner	:	Julian W. WOO	
Docket No.	:	SYN-8312	
Customer No.	:	27,316	

A M E N D M E N T**Mail Stop AF**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attention: Examiner WOO Tel (571) 272-4707

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

The following amendment is being submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated November 18, 2008. Please enter and consider the following amendment and remarks and issue the Advisory Action, if any, before the 3-month due date:

Table of Contents for Each Section of this Response

IN THE CLAIMS.....	2
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS.....	16
CONCLUSION	28